

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.	25X1
SUBJECT	Information on Oryakhovo Village, Svilengrad Okoliya	DATE DISTR.	15 June 1953
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1. The Oryakhovo village People's Council building, a 2-story brick building with three rooms on each floor, measures about five by 4 meters and is located in the center of the village next to a bakery.
2. The DSNM (Dimitrovski Suyuz na Narodnata Mladezh: Dimitrov Union of the People's Youth) was divided into two sections in the village when the Agricultural Cooperative was formed in 1949. Members of the cooperative belong to one section and non-members to the other. The reason for this separation of the two sections is not known. Young people have found it necessary to join the DSNM in order to be able to continue their education or obtain a job, and it was considered advisable to be a member before being called for military service in order to receive lighter duties in the army. Lectures on Communism were given at the monthly meetings, which informant says were not at all convincing to members. In the summer of 1952 firing practices were held, but members were not obliged to attend.
3. The independent or non-Agricultural Cooperative section of the Oryakhovo DSNM has about 25 members. This section has four Communist members who, although they hold no offices in the organization, do most of the talking at the meetings. The Agricultural Cooperative section has about 15 members and is headed by a Communist.
4. In approximately February 1953, five or six men from Oryakhovo of the 1912 to 1914 classes were called for reserve military service.
5. The Oryakhovo Agricultural Cooperative was formed in 1950 and as of March 1953 about 25 percent or 70 of the 300 farms in the village had been collectivized. The cooperative owns no modern equipment but borrows machinery from other places, for which service it pays cash.

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Comment: The population of Oryakhovo village, Svilengrad Okoliya, was 1,294 according to the 1946 census.

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria
SUBJECT	1. Arrival of Soviet Troops in Oryakhovo 2. Fortifications in the Svilengrad Area
DATE OF INFO.	
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Arrival of Soviet Troops in Oryakhovo

1. At 1700 hours on 25 March 1953, two green-painted trucks containing 35 to 40 soldiers believed to be Soviet arrived in Oryakhovo village (N 41-55, E 26-10), Svilengrad Okoliya. No reception committee or welcoming official was observed.
2. The soldiers were dressed in grey uniforms, some newer than others, which consisted of a cap, short jacket, trousers tucked into soft leather boots and a 3-inch belt. They were armed either with carbines or automatic pistols and unloaded four white cases with iron handles which measured approximately 60 x 70-80 x 130 centimeters in size and 10 to 15 dark-colored blankets. Villagers were permitted to approach to within approximately five meters of the trucks.
3. About 20 March 1953 [redacted] heard that the Oryakhovo Village People's Council had appointed a billeting commission to requisition available quarters for approximately 500 Soviet soldiers who were to arrive in Oryakhovo in four or five days, allegedly to work as coal miners. No mention was made of the proposed length of their stay.

Fortifications in the Svilengrad Area

4. A 1,000-man Trudovak unit, Podelenie unknown, billeted in Oryakhovo village, Svilengrad Okoliya, since early March 1953 has been working on border fortifications started by a Trudovak unit (possibly the same one) in the spring and summer of 1952. The men in this unit are equipped only with shovels

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and pickaxes and their food is received by truck from Lyubimets (N 41-50, E 26-05).

5.. The fortifications are located on hills approximately one kilometer to the east and west of Oryakhovo and consist of trenches one meter wide and 1.5 meters deep, excavated in a zig-zag line with irregularly spaced brick gun emplacements and elliptical-shaped bunkers approximately two meters deep with stone and concrete walls. The tops of the bunkers are about 50 centimeters above ground and are covered with thick planks and earth; each bunker includes one or two firing positions facing west and is surrounded by an area of camouflaged trenches five or 10 meters in width.

6. A barbed wire barrier extends from approximately one kilometer east of Svilengrad toward Dervishka Mogila (N 41-56, E 26-21), passing southeast of Momkovo village (N 41-51, E 26-09), and northwest of Lefka village (N 41-52, E 26-17). This barrier consists of three or four rows of wooden posts, the two outside rows being located approximately two meters apart, and three rows of barbed wire erected diagonally between the three rows to a height of about 1.5 meters.²

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